

Application No. 10/775,076
Reply to Office Action of June 26, 2005
Date: August 29, 2005

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Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- Claim 1. (Previously presented) A container for receiving an explosive element and containing fragments projected by an explosion thereof, the container comprising:
- a seamless enclosure made of walls defining a first open end and a first closed end, the seamless enclosure being collapsible, the walls are formed by a plurality of independent interleaved plies of material, the material and number of plies are selected to contain fragments projected by the explosion;
 - an outer casing having a plurality of first and second panels defining a second enclosure for snugly receiving the seamless enclosure, the first and second panels being rigid, the first panels being hingedly connected to the second panels such that the first panels are movable between a first deployed configuration, where the first panels define a second open end corresponding to the first open end, to a second folded configuration, where the first panels at least partially close the second open end, thereby reducing a height of the outer casing; and
 - a first attachment system on the outer casing for maintaining the first panels in the first deployed configuration when the container is receiving the explosive element;
- whereby the container is folded for storage by collapsing the seamless enclosure and moving the first panels of the outer casing in the second folded configuration.
- Claim 2. (cancelled)
- Claim 3. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 1, further comprising:
- an inner casing snugly surrounded by the seamless enclosure, the inner casing having a plurality of third and fourth panels defining a third enclosure, the third and fourth panels being composed of a blast mitigation material significantly reducing a strength of a blast produced by the explosion before the blast reaches the seamless enclosure, the third panels being hingedly connected to the fourth panels such that the third panels are movable between a third deployed

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configuration, where the third panels define a third open end corresponding to the first open end, to a fourth folded configuration, where the third panels at least partially close the third open end, thereby reducing a height of the inner casing; and

a second attachment system on the inner casing for maintaining the third panels in the third deployed configuration when the container is receiving the explosive element;

whereby the first panels of the outer casing can be moved in the second folded configuration at least when the third panels of the inner casing are in the fourth folded configuration.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 23, wherein the flexible material is an extended chain polyethylene fabric.

Claims 5-7. (cancelled)

Claim 8. (original) The container according to claim 1, wherein the first and second panels of the outer casing are composed of a rigid foam core sandwiched between two sheets of polyethylene.

Claim 9. (cancelled)

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the outer casing and seamless enclosure have a prismatic shape.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 3, wherein the outer casing, seamless enclosure and inner casing have a prismatic shape.

Claims 12-13. (withdrawn)

Claim 14. (cancelled)

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 23, wherein the container has a prismatic shape formed by a top wall and first and second pairs of opposed side walls.

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Claim 16. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 15, wherein the interleaved plies of material comprises first, second and third elongated strips of material, the first elongated strip continuously forming plies of the top wall and plies of the first pair of opposed side walls, the second elongated strip continuously forming alternating plies of the top wall and plies of the second pair of opposed side walls, the third elongated strip continuously forming alternating plies of the first and second pair of opposed side walls, the first, second and third elongated strips interleaved such that each of the first, second and third elongated strips forms a continuity of overlapping layers.

Claim 17. (cancelled)

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 23, wherein the material is flexible such that the container is collapsible.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 23, wherein the material is an extended chain polyethylene fabric.

Claim 20. (cancelled)

Claim 21. (Previously presented) A method for manufacturing a container for receiving an explosive element and containing fragments projected by an explosion thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a prismatic support having a top wall, a first side wall, a second side wall adjacent to the first side wall, a third side wall opposed to the first side wall, and a fourth side wall opposed to the second side wall;

providing first, second and third strips of a material selected to contain fragments projected by the explosion, the first strip having a width generally equal to a width of the first side wall, the second strip having a width generally equal to a width of the second side wall, and the third strip having a width generally equal to a height of the container;

wrapping the first strip such as to subsequently cover the first side wall, top wall and third side wall;

wrapping the second strip such as to subsequently cover the second side wall, top wall and fourth side wall;

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wrapping the third strip around the support such as to subsequently cover the first, second, third and fourth side walls;

wrapping the first strip back such as to subsequently cover the third side wall, top wall and first side wall;

wrapping the second strip back such as to subsequently cover the fourth side wall, top wall and second side wall;

wrapping the third strip again around the support such as to subsequently cover the first, second, third and fourth side walls; and

repeating the wrapping steps until a desired thickness of material is obtained over each wall thereby defining the container.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein after a desired thickness of material is obtained, the container is laminated for rigidity.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A container for receiving an explosive element and containing fragments projected by an explosion thereof, the container comprising a seamless enclosure made of walls defining an open end and a closed end, the walls are formed by a plurality of independent interleaved plies of material, the material and number of plies are selected to contain fragments projected by the explosion.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 23, wherein the interleaved plies of material extend in alternating orientations, orthogonal to each other.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 24, wherein the interleaved plies of material are in the form of elongated flexible woven strips.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 25, wherein the seamless enclosure is a collapsible bag.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The container according to claim 26, wherein the walls making up the enclosure have a constant thickness.